



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

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Hired Workers Up 7 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Up 20 Cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 46,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of January 10-16, 2010, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.22 per hour during the January 2010 survey week, up 20 cents from January 2009. The number of hours worked averaged 33.8 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 34.0 hours in January 2009. During the 2010 reference week, Minnesota, part of the Lake Region, experienced a slight warming spell. The week started with an average temperature of 5 to 10 degrees F, warmed to an average temperature of 19 to 24 degrees for a couple days, then reached daytime highs above freezing in parts of the state by the end of the week. These temperatures were fairly average for a January in Minnesota.

United States: There were 767,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 10-16, 2010, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 587,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers. Wet weather conditions over most of California and in the Southern Plains region caused major fieldwork delays. In the Northeast I region, cold, snowy weather hindered most outside farm activities.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.06 per hour during the January 2010 reference week, up 13 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 37.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2010						
	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}		
	January 11-17 2009	October 11-17 2010	January 10-16 2010	January 11-17 2009	October 11-17 2010	January 10-16 2010
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/}	1,000 Workers					
	43	67	46	595	807	587
Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/}	Hours Per Week					
	34.0	38.0	33.8	38.3	39.0	37.3
Workers By Work Type	Dollars Per Hour					
Field	10.83	11.03	11.12	9.96	10.25	10.14
Livestock	9.96	10.10	9.97	10.27	10.23	10.26
Field & Livestock	10.20	10.65	10.30	10.08	10.24	10.19
All Workers ^{3/}	11.02	11.24	11.22	10.93	10.91	11.06

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.
2/ Excludes Alaska.
3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.